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PAGE 14

CentreVenture CEO 'optimistic' that True North Square deal can happen

Development.
Convention centre asks agency to provide more info on project

SHANE GIBSON
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CentreVenture president and CEO Angela Mathieson said Wednesday she's optimistic about the future of the proposed True North Square development. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

CentreVenture's president and CEO says she is optimistic about the chances Winnipeggers will one day be able to celebrate Winnipeg Jets wins at True North Square.

Angela Mathieson told media Wednesday a meeting this week between Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and the chairs of both CentreVenture and the RBC Convention Centre ended positively, with the mayor asking CentreVenture to bring the convention centre more details about the project in the coming days.

"I'd suggest at this point in time we're optimistic," she said.

"I think the mayor has said he's asking us if we can put together a path forward for the project and most importantly to build a new hotel for the convention centre."

As well as a new hotel connected to the convention centre on Carlton Street — taxes from which the city needs to help pay for the building's expansion — True North's $400-million plan would see housing, office space and a public square built around the arena.

Bowman has been publicly critical of the level of transparency involved in an option agreement signed between the city's arm's-length development agency and True North, which led True North chairman Mark Chipman to put the deal "on pause" early last month.

Mathieson said CentreVenture remains in regular communication with True North, whom she called the only development group with the "depth" needed to get the project done.

"The scale of this project is not something that could be managed by only a local developer," she said.

"This is really large, you do have to have the experience and the financial capacity to carry through with something like this."

True North's option agreement with CentreVenture expires in June.

WITH FILES FROM BERNICE PONTANILLA

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Pair of councillors want businesses tax chop axed

Money. Coun. Ross Eadie and Coun. Jason Schreyer saying an uneven burden being put on homeowners

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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Business owners aren't pulling their collective weight compared to homeowners when it comes to municipal taxes, Coun. Ross Eadie said on Wednesday.

The representative of the Mynarski ward held a press conference with colleague Coun. Jason Schreyer to announce his opposition to the lowering of the business tax to 5.6 per cent from 5.7.

"Business (and) commercial enterprises have benefitted from a much-decreased share of the property taxes" burden, said Eadie, adding his number-crunching has shown a big hike in taxes paid by residential versus non-residential since 2009.

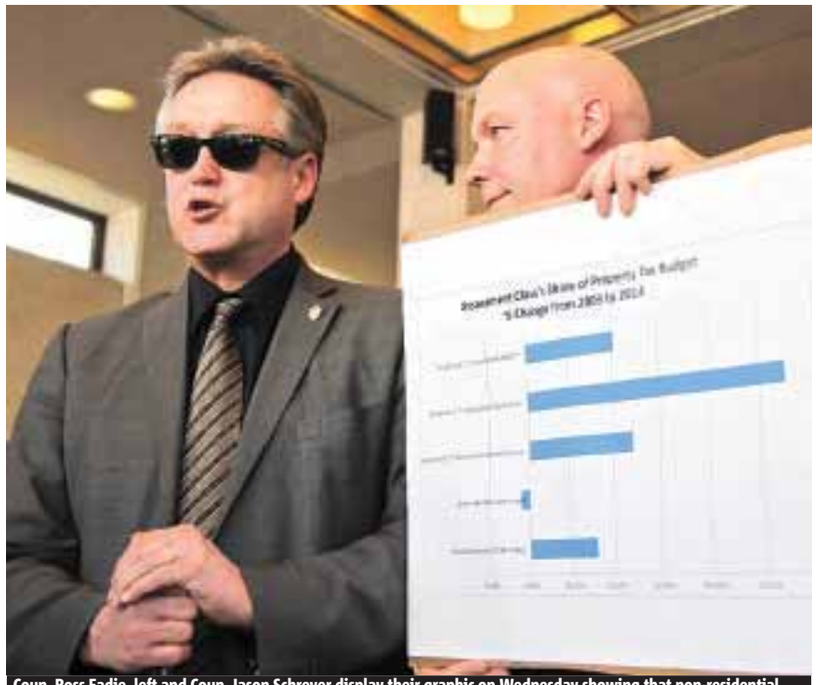
"If a business, non-residential, were to share evenly in the increase in property taxes, that would mean that their share of the budget would have been about $23 million."

Eadie said he believes business owners don't want to see cuts to things such as flower-planting along the city's image routes, pool hours, roads and police services.

Schreyer said he agrees with Eadie, even though he finds municipal taxes to be "regressive."

Eadie said he supports the other business item in the 2015 budget: the rebate of municipal business tax for those that have a rental value of $30,000 or less, which is expected to benefit 6,025 small businesses.

In a previous interview with Metro, Elliot Sims, Manitoba director for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said the city took a "positive step forward" by lowering the business tax, but should do away with it entirely.



Coun. Ross Eadie, left and Coun. Jason Schreyer display their graphic on Wednesday showing that non-residential share of the property tax budget has decreased at city hall. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Customers at the Airport Motor Inn got a rude awakening after a water main break flooded the building's basement. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Airport Motor Inn guests receive watery wakeup call after flooding

More than 70 customers were forced from their rooms after a water main break flooded the basement of a Winnipeg motel.

The water was about two metres deep in the lower level of the Airport Motor Inn by the time crews managed to get a handle on the overnight break.

Emergency officials say crews from Manitoba Hydro had to be called in to help turn off power to the building before workers could safely start pumping out the water.

About 54 of the evacuees were taken on transit buses to another hotel.

The remaining guests left in their own vehicles.

The break also flooded a number of streets in the area.

The City of Winnipeg said no one was hurt and that crews were working to fix the problem. CJOB/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Winnipeg police headquarters will likely see police officers move in during the summer. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Costs rise over delay in move to new police HQ

City hall. Move now set for summer; delay costs $9.3 million

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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Tuesday's property and development committee meeting offered some clues on when Winnipeg police will move into their new headquarters.

The new HQ on Graham Avenue figured prominently in the property and development (P&D) department's expenses, seen during a presentation on the city's 2015 operating and capital budgets.

Municipal accommodations will get an extra $9.3 million on top of the 2014 adopted budget number of $8.6 million. That makes for a total of $17.9 million in 2015 to pay for HQ costs before police take possession.

"You will see under grants, transfers and other, a big variance of $9.3 million, and what this is due to is the delay in the occupancy of the Winnipeg Police Service headquarters building," said Mike McGinn, manager of finance for P&D.

"With the delayed occupancy of the HQ building, in 2015 the police will be occupying their existing facilities for approximately seven months of the year."

Police were supposed to move into the new building last September, but a rainstorm in August of 2014 caused extensive damage.

McGinn said the city will deal with more "vacant space" this year as police move into the HQ and move out of the Public Safety Building.

Some money will be saved, added McGinn, by police getting out of some rental agreements for units moving to the HQ from other facilities.

The cost of the police HQ continues to make waves.

On Wednesday, the Winnipeg Free Press reported that a consultant pegged the cost of the police HQ purchase and renovations at $179.5 million — about nine months before city council voted in favour of the project at a price tag of $135 million.

The newspaper obtained the Hanscomb report through an access-to-information request and help from the Manitoba ombudsman.

The Free Press report is the latest in the sordid saga, which saw the HQ become the subject of two audits and an ongoing RCMP investigation.

Vacating

Councillor urges plan for the PSB

Coun. Russ Wyatt lobbied strongly at Tuesday's property and development meeting for a plan to deal with the Public Safety Building (PSB) and Civic Parkade just west of city hall.

The parkade was closed to the public in August 2012; however, police use the lower levels for parking.

Wyatt said that with police vacating both properties this year, the city should move quickly to figure out what to do with the land and buildings.

City officials said it will cost $2.5 million to $5 million to demolish the parkade and "ready the asset."

In May 2014, the downtown development committee approved $275,000 for a consultant's report on what to do with the PSB and parkade.

City officials asked the committee to allow the Deloitte report and its options to come forward, before making any decisions.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Russ Wyatt
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO FILE

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The Book of Mormon runs March 17-22 at Centennial Concert Hall. CONTRIBUTED

Theatre. The Book of Mormon offers big laughs

Alexandra Ncube's character in Trey Stone and Matt Parker's The Book of Mormon is supposed be smiling throughout the musical comedy, and she's grateful for that.

The actress, who will play the role of Nabulungi when the Tony Award-winning musical comes to Winnipeg next week, tells Metro it would have been nearly impossible not to crack a smile in character while listening to and repeating the words written by the minds behind South Park.

"It's a very, very funny show," said Ncube, who plays the daughter of the chief of a Ugandan village visited by two American Mormon missionaries in the musical that uses South Park's brand of humour to bring attention to serious issues like war, famine and poverty.

"I like to say that it makes some really difficult topics that we don't really talk about more accessible because it's presented in satire.

Quoted

"I like to say that it makes some really difficult topics that we don't really talk about more accessible because it's presented in satire."

Alexander Ncube, Book of Mormon actress, on the musical comedy's serious side

"There's some horrible things being said ... but you're laughing at the same time."

Ncube said the production attracts a wide-ranging audience because of it's blend traditional musical sensibilities with the non-traditional wit of Parker and Stone.

"This is definitely the perfect musical for people who aren't quite partial to musicals," she said.

"We see so many college boys and the non-tradition audience members, and they love it, they absolutely love it."

GIBSON METRO WINNIPEG

Toning down the heat but upping creativity

Music. Pioneering melodic death metal band In Flames brings its sound to Winnipeg

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Swedish heavy metal band In Flames brings its Siren Charms Tour to Winnipeg on Sunday. PATRIC ULLAEUS/CONTRIBUTED

Swedish metal band In Flames recorded its latest album Siren Charms outside of its native Gothenburg, but for vocalist Anders Fridén, the experience was a bit like coming home.

In Flames' 11th studio album was recorded at Hansa Tonstudio in Berlin, a space known for albums such as Heroes by David Bowie, Lust for Life by Iggy Pop and Construction Time Again by Depeche Mode. In Flames covered Everything Counts from Construction Time Again on its 1997 album Whoracle.

"When I was 10 years old, I got into heavy metal and at the same time I got into Depeche Mode," Fridén said.

"I was like 'Whoa! This is something different' and since then I've been open-minded about music. Even though I'm a metalhead, I've always had Depeche Mode on the side, although I didn't tell anyone at first because you couldn't be anything but heavy metal. The studio had the same mixing desk that Construction Time Again was mixed on, so for me it was full circle."

Formed in 1990 in Gothenburg, In Flames is considered a pioneering band in melodic death metal, with 1996's The Jester Race, Whoracle and 1999's Colony considered classics of the genre.

Since those early albums, In Flames has slowly strayed away from death metal, with the incorporation of electronic elements, clean singing and an overall more mainstream metal sound. Despite earning many new fans over the years, there's a persistent population that stands by In Flames' old stuff.

"I do understand these people that want a certain sound," Fridén said. "I'm sort of the same way. I love Metallica, but I don't consider their latest albums their best ones. My favourite is Master of Puppets (released in 1986). That's the Metallica album I pick up when I want to listen to Metallica. But, what differs with me is I don't go on the Internet and write that they suck. I appreciate their work and I know they put a lot of effort into their work and I really admire them.

"We're still going to continue to make albums for the people who want to hear whatever comes next. You can never win that fight, so we'll just keep doing what we do. I love playing in this band and I love the metal we're making."

In Flames plays the Garrick Centre on Sunday. All That Remains and Wovenwar open the show. Tickets are $39.50 at ticketfly.com Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Millions of dollars needed for Kilcona Park: Coun.

City. Committee adds $2.35-million line to 2020 capital budget

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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Kilcona Park is in dire need of repairs and the city shouldn't put it off, says Coun. Russ Wyatt.

"If you think about it, we've invested in Kildonan Park, we've invested significantly in Assiniboine Park, we've invested in St. Vital Park, but Kilcona Park has been forgotten by the City of Winnipeg," the councillor for Transcona said after Tuesday's property and development meeting.

"There are some immediate needs that have to be addressed; the existing facility at Kilcona Park is literally sinking into the lake."

Kilcona Park, which boasts one of the largest dog parks in the city as well as a golf course, must meet the needs of the "entire, growing community of northeast Winnipeg and all of Winnipeg," he added.

Wyatt proposed setting aside $4.7 million in the capital budget starting this year and over five years for the "forgotten cousin in our regional park system."

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi objected, saying she prefers to see a citywide strategy on parks first before that much money gets doled out.

The compromise was $2.35 million in the 2020 capital budget, but Wyatt hopes to increase that number and change the date to sooner rather than later.

"A lot of the infrastructure issues are so critical, existing infrastructure, that they will need funds most likely before that," said Wyatt, adding that certain assets at Kilcona Park are an "unfunded liability, a risk."

"The request from our own public service was well over $2.35 million — five times as much."

Wyatt said there are already areas barricaded off in the park.

The city has adopted a master plan for Kilcona Park, and last September a motion was approved at council that sent the plan to the 2015 budget discussions.

However, no funds were committed to Kilcona Park in this year's capital budget.

Follow Bernice Pontanilla on Twitter @MetroBee

Lawrence Toet. MP's straw-man terror query faces mockery online

A Conservative Member of Parliament is being mocked online over response options offered in a mailout about terrorism sent to his constituents.

The flyer from Lawrence Toet asks people in his Winnipeg riding to choose between two statements — either they agree with him that Canada needs more protection from terrorism or they disagree and feel "terrorists are victims too."

The question prompted some acerbic parody on the social-news site Reddit.

One Reddit user proposed a similar scenario: "Do you believe in mandatory sentencing? Yes! Justice is important to me. No! I believe that child molesters should be allowed into preschools at will."

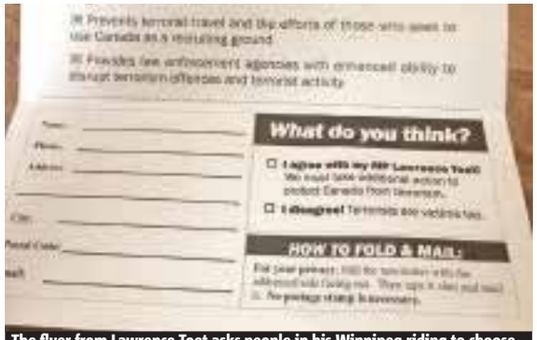
Another asked about the proposed Keystone pipeline, with two options: "Yes! It will create thousands of jobs. No! I am an environmental terrorist and should be put in prison."

Toet was not immediately available for an interview Wednesday.

A pollster who lives in Toet's Elwood-Transcona riding and who received the mailer at his home called the MP's question "preposterous."

"As a market researcher, if I had a question like this on an omnibus survey ... and then it was released to the public, I mean, people would just laugh and think it was a joke," said Curtis Brown, vice-president of Probe Research Inc.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The flyer from Lawrence Toet asks people in his Winnipeg riding to choose between two stark statements. TWITTER

Crime

Cadets stop armed robbery in Exchange District

A pair of Winnipeg police cadets are being credited with stopping an armed robbery in progress in the Exchange District on Monday night.

The cadets were driving near Main Street and McDermot Avenue when they saw two men armed with knives robbing another man of cash and a cellphone.

The cadets stepped in, and the armed men fled.

Police were called, and two suspects were quickly tracked down nearby.

Grant Miles Kirby, 31, of Winnipeg and a 24-year-old man are both charged with robbery and possession of a weapon. METRO

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According to a policy at Manitoba Liquor Marts, the stores are not supposed to give empty liquor boxes to customers, an MLL spokeswoman says. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Moving? Liquor Mart packs away free boxes

Shopping. Stores don't have space to store them, spokeswoman says

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Stopping at the LC for old liquor boxes to use during a move is a tradition as Manitoban as cubed cheese and mustard at a social, but the Crown corporation is working to wean cost-conscious movers away from relying on its stores for free boxes.

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries quietly put a policy in place a few years back directing employees to stop handing over empty boxes to customers, but old habits die hard, according to MLL spokeswoman Susan Harrison.

"If you happen to come in on a stock day it's up to the store manager's discretion and they may let you have a couple," Harrison told Metro about why the policy change isn't more widely known.

"But as a policy we don't tell the public that we have boxes available for them."

Harrison said stores keep a certain number of boxes on hand to pack large orders around Christmas or for customers stocking up for socials, but other than that employees are directed to crush and recycle empty boxes after stocking the shelves.

And it's not that the MLL doesn't want to save movers a few bucks on boxes. Harrison said the policy was put in place simply to free up room for more important things, like the alcohol movers need to entice friends into helping schlep their stuff in the first place.

"We just don't have the space to be a source of (moving boxes)," she said. "We don't have room to keep them in our warehouses in the back and certainly putting them on the floor takes up space, it's untidy and it's a hazard."

Store owner jumps in car to chase teenage boys after alleged robbery

A Winnipeg convenience store owner says he was thinking about keeping students in a nearby elementary school from harm when he chased and grabbed a 15-year-old boy who had allegedly robbed him at gunpoint.

Harshad Patel took matters into his own hands when he pursued the youth and an alleged 18-year-old accomplice after his business was held up Tuesday afternoon.

The 40-year-old shop owner says the younger teen walked into his outlet, pointed what turned out to be a pellet gun at him and demanded all his cash.

He fled with nearly $2,000, but Patel jumped in his vehicle and chased both suspects before confronting the 15-year-old by the school.

Patel and an off-duty corrections officer who happened to be nearby held the boy until police arrived.

No one was seriously hurt and officers were able to locate the older teen before taking both away to face several charges.

Patel said it was "crazy" in his store when the holdup occurred.

"It was scary — really scary. He said, 'Open your till and give me all your money.' I did and after that he just grabbed his bag and ran away."

Patel also said there was a brief scuffle when he caught the boy, but he was thinking about the safety of the children inside the school.

"He was trying to push me and I grabbed him and punched him a little bit. They were running in front of a school. It was time for all the kids to come out and he has a gun."

Const. Jason Michalyshen, a police spokesman, said officers never condone or encourage members of the public to confront criminals.

"I think people are sick and tired of hearing about these types of incidents and from time to time they will take matters into their own hands," Michalyshen said. "But I can't stress enough the importance of having their personal safety as the highest priority." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pakistani man accused of Toronto terror plot

A Pakistani man Canadian authorities suspect of plotting to blow up the U.S. consulate and buildings in Toronto's financial district and videotape the attacks was ordered kept in custody on Wednesday pending deportation.

Jahanzeb Malik, who came to Canada as a student in 2004, was ordered detained on "security grounds" following a hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board.

The Canada Border Services Agency arrested Malik, 33, Monday in Toronto, after a lengthy investigation by Canadian security and anti-terrorism personnel, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said in Ottawa.

At the hearing Wednesday, a lawyer for the immigration minister said an undercover RCMP officer befriended Malik.

"Malik attempted to radicalize the undercover officer by showing him videos apparently of (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) beheadings," Jessica Lourenco alleged. "He told the undercover officer about his plan to build remote-controlled bombs to blow up the U.S. consulate and other buildings in the financial district of Toronto."

Canadian authorities allege Malik to be a self-proclaimed supporter of ISIL who also claims to be a "personal friend" of American Anwar Al-Awlaki, a top-ranking member of the terrorist organization al-Qaida who was killed in Yemen by a U.S. drone strike.

They also say he has taken "weapons, combat and landmine training" in Libya.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges

Malik, who faces no criminal charges, appeared via video conference from jail.

- It remains unclear why Canadian authorities are moving to deport Malik rather than charge him criminally, as they did, for example, in the case of two foreign nationals accused of plotting to blow up a passenger train.

Iraq troop deployment will not grow: Minister

Military pallbearers from the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command carry the flag-draped casket of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Tuesday, at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Trenton, Ont. Doiron was killed in a friendly-fire incident in Iraq last Friday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military. Government says it has no plans to send more troops, but mum on whether mission profile could change

The Harper government isn't planning to increase the size of its special forces contingent in northern Iraq if Canada's combat mission in the country is extended, Defence Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

There has been flurry of speculation about how the deployment might be restructured as the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant evolves and local forces conduct further offensives to drive extremists out of the country.

Kenney may have been able to rule out more troops, but he was more circumspect about whether the scope of operations — limited so far to advising and assisting Kurdish peshmerga forces — will change.

"The government has not yet taken a final decision on potential renewal or extension of the mission, and so I'll have to ask the member to wait until that decision is taken and we will certainly report it to Parliament in the form of a motion," Kenney said in answer to a question from NDP defence critic Jack Harris. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We certainly have no intention of increasing the number of SOF (special operations forces) operators."

Defence Minister Jason Kenney in the Commons defence committee

Treasury board president backs PM Harper on face-covering veils

Treasury Board President Tony Clement says banning the wearing of face-covering veils during citizenship ceremonies is necessary to assert Canadian values of gender equality and openness.

But he says it's not necessary to impose those same values in the workplace or in other spheres of life. Federal public servants, for instance, are not barred from wearing the niqab, a garment that leaves only the eyes exposed. Clement's distinction is fuelling the debate over the niqab, which Prime Minister Stephen Harper has called the product of an anti-women culture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#dresscodePM

PM gets flak on social media

Twitter users across the country took Prime Minister Stephen Harper to task Wednesday over what they feel is his government's inconsistent position on the niqab.

Harper and members of his cabinet have said the traditional Muslim face-covering veil shouldn't be worn during citizenship ceremonies.

Twitter users, often wearing veils themselves, used selfies to ask Harper if their outfits were PM-approved.

@Amnamaq: Stephen Harper forgive me for I have sinned, I dressed without your consent this morning #DressCodePM #Doyouapprove

@ryanknighton: @pryanknighton: Raining in Vancouver today. My eight-year-old daughter doesn't want to wear her rain coat. Please legislate. #dresscodePM

TAKARA SMALL/METRO

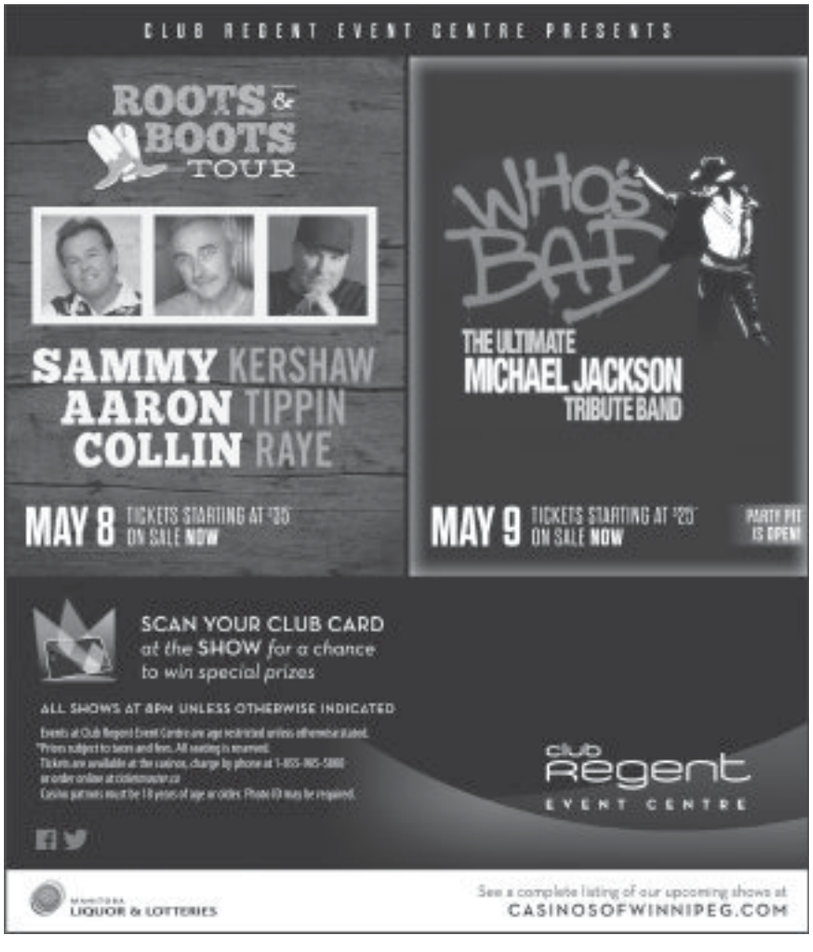
Islam

Canadian imams shun ISIL, supporters

A group of Canadian imams is condemning followers of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as non-Muslims and "outsiders" to the faith.

Imam Syed Soharwardy and 37 other Muslim leaders from across the country have issued an Islamic edict called a fatwa against the militant group currently trying to attract supporters to its war in Syria and Iraq. Soharwardy, the founder of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada, said that ISIL is violating Muslim law. As a result, the group and anyone supporting them will no longer be considered Muslim. "They have been excommunicated from the Muslim community, and those who will join them, they should be excommunicated from the Muslim community and they cannot be considered as Muslims at all," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Edmonton-Ellerslie PC MLA Naresh Bhardwaj THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Alberta MLA faces bribery allegations

Investigation. Sworn statements make claims about PC incumbent

JEREMY NOLAIS & RYAN TUMILTY
calgary@metronews.ca

The Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta is investigating irregularities in the nomination process of an Edmonton constituency amid allegations that the incumbent MLA attempted to mislead a challenger's supporters and offer a bribe through a proxy in order to undermine the challenger's campaign.

On Monday, Metro confirmed an ongoing probe by the PCAA into the nomination process in Edmonton-Ellerslie, currently held by Naresh Bhardwaj.

Metro made repeated attempts to contact Bhardwaj, the associate minister for persons with disabilities, including asking him in person at the Alberta Legislature Wednesday to respond and supplying him with a written list of questions regarding the allegations, but he would only say: "I think anything related to the nomination should be directed to Kelly Charlebois." Charlebois is the PC party's executive director.

The allegations against Bhardwaj stem from Edmonton-Ellerslie challenger Balraj Manhas' claim that he was called just days before the Feb. 21 nomination ballot and told by riding committee representatives to withdraw or be publicly disqualified on the basis that his nomination papers were invalid.

Metro has spoken to two of Manhas' supporters and received copies of their notarized statements. They claim Bhardwaj or others acting on his behalf attempted to have them sign pre-drafted affidavits claiming their names had improperly appeared on the challenger's nomination papers.

In one instance, Balbir Sidhu claims he was offered a $10,000 bribe paid either in Canada or in India by others working on Bhardwaj's behalf in exchange for claiming his signature and those of other family members should not have been on Manhas' papers.

Sidhu said he outright refused.

"I thought, 'Why would he do this?'" Sidhu said in an interview Tuesday. "Whatever the public wants for this area is supposed to be what happens."

Bhardwaj remained in a nearby car while the conversation with the proxy took place, Sidhu said.

In the other instance, Bilal Ali claims his family was approached late at night by three men, including Bhardwaj, and told to sign a document that he initially believed was to confirm their support for Manhas. It was only later, Ali said Tuesday, that he realized his signature was being used to run Manhas out of the race.

Ali said in an interview that three other members of his family had also supported Manhas and all signed the document allegedly offered by Bhardwaj.

None of the aforementioned allegations have been proven.

PC party representatives refused to delve into the specifics of their ongoing investigation Tuesday and again Wednesday, even after being informed of Metro's possession of the documents.

A spokesperson said Wednesday the party "confirms that there are many layers to this investigation" but declined to speak in further detail.

Instead, the party referred to comments made Monday when Metro first reported about potential issues with the nomination race.

At that time, Charlebois would only say that the party was looking into the race.

"The whole matter is still considered under review by the party," he said.

Sidhu, meanwhile, said he hopes for a fulsome investigation.

In his sworn statement, he directly addressed Premier Jim Prentice.

"For God Sake Jim, please save Alberta from such corrupt inducements or bribes to kill party soul of fairness," Sidhu wrote.

Execution. Utah considers restoring the firing squad

A vote by Utah lawmakers to bring back executions by firing squad is the most dramatic illustration yet of the nationwide frustration over bungled executions and shortages of lethal-injection drugs.

Utah and several other states are scrambling to modify their laws on the heels of a botched Oklahoma lethal injection last year and one in Arizona in which the condemned man took nearly two hours to die.

Meanwhile, Texas prepared to execute a Mexican mafia hit man Wednesday night with its second-to-last dosage of drugs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lethal injection

States have struggled to keep up their drug inventories as European manufacturers opposed to capital punishment refuse to sell the components of lethal injections to U.S. prisons. The Texas deadline is the most imminent, but other states are struggling, too.

France

Highway jewel heist worth millions

About 15 gunmen ambushed two vans carrying jewels worth millions on a French highway in the dead of night, ejecting their drivers and speeding off into the Burgundy countryside, police said. It was the latest of several big jewelry heists in France.

The assailants and the jewels remained missing Wednesday evening, even after gendarmes and other authorities spent hours combing the forests and towns southeast of Paris around the scene of the overnight attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlusconi cleared of underage-sex charges

Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi waves to supporters as he arrives at his residence of Palazzo Grazioli in Rome on Wednesday.

ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acquittal upheld. Former Italian prime minister to return to political party despite a six-year ban on holding elected office

Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi savoured his court victory in the infamous "bunga bunga" case Wednesday by plunging headfirst into politics, saying he's working for a better Italy even though he remains barred from public office.

On Tuesday, Italy's highest court confirmed Berlusconi's acquittal on charges he paid an underage Moroccan prostitute for sex and then used his influence to cover it up.

The ruling closed an embarrassing chapter for the billionaire media mogul, exposing the raunchy parties at his Milan mansion, complete with showgirl stripteases and wads of cash paid to guests in envelopes at the end of each party.

In a statement Wednesday, Berlusconi cheered the decision but expressed bitterness "for a case that did a lot of damage not just to me, my family and other innocent people, but to all Italians, our public life and the image of our country in the world."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I'm back with Forza Italia ... to build a better, more just and free Italy."

Former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi won't stay out of politics long following his exoneration on allegations of underage sex and an associated cover-up.

Ferguson. Chief resigns after scathing report

The police chief in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo., resigned Wednesday in the wake of a scathing Justice Department report prompted by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

The city said in a statement that it reached a mutual separation agreement with Chief Thomas Jackson, who will get a severance payment and health insurance for a year. Lt. Col. Al Eickhoff will become acting chief March 19 while the city searches for a replacement.

Jackson had previously resisted calls by protesters and some of Missouri's top elected leaders to step down over his handling of the August shooting of Michael Brown and the weeks of sometimes-violent protests that followed.

Jackson becomes the sixth employee to resign or be fired after the U.S. Department of Justice last week issued a report that cleared Officer Darren Wilson of civil rights charges in the shooting but found a profit-driven court system and widespread racial bias in the city police department.

Jackson oversaw the Ferguson force for nearly five years before the shooting that stirred months of unrest and drew global attention to the predominantly black city of 21,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I believe this is the appropriate thing to do at this time. This city needs to move forward without any distractions."

Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson, on his resignation

Florida. All 11 presumed dead in helicopter crash

Human remains and helicopter parts were recovered Wednesday after seven Marines and four soldiers crashed in heavy fog during military training in Florida.

All 11 service members were presumed dead after the Army National Guard's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter went down offshore, a Pentagon official said.

President Barack Obama spoke with the military leaders involved and expressed his condolences to the families before saying he's confident there will be a detailed investigation, said his spokesman, Josh Earnest.

Another helicopter participating in the training returned undamaged, authorities said.

Despite the human remains washing ashore, the military still called it a rescue mission, said Sara Vidoni, a spokeswoman for Eglin Air Force Base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black Hawk down

The Black Hawk crashed as Marines and National Guardsmen practiced insertion and extraction missions using small boats and helicopters to get troops into and out of a target site, said Capt. Barry Morris, spokesman for the Marine Corps Special Operations Command.

In this still image taken from video, a soldier fires from behind a building in Tikrit, Iraq, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi soldiers sweep into ISIL-held Tikrit

Iraq. Allied militiamen breach one of extremist group's key strongholds

Iraqi soldiers and allied Shiite militiamen launched a two-front offensive in the ISIL-held city of Tikrit on Wednesday to squeeze extremists out of Saddam Hussein's hometown in a major test of the troops' resolve.

Explosions and heavy gunfire echoed through Tikrit, a key way station for Iraqi forces trying to expel the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, who hold roughly a third of the country and neighbouring Syria. The offensive also will serve as a major crucible for Iraqi forces, which collapsed under the extremists' initial offensive last year and now face street-by-street fighting in one of ISIL's biggest strongholds.

Allied Iraqi forces first entered the city through its northern Qadisiyya neighbourhood, according to video obtained by The Associated Press. Overhead, an attack helicopter fired missiles as soldiers and militiamen laid down heavy machine-gunfire in the neighbourhood's dusty streets as downtown Tikrit loomed in the distance, black smoke rising overhead.

Authorities offered no immediate casualty figures, though Iran's state-run Press TV satellite channel reported that a mortar attack wounded one of its cameramen there.

Later Wednesday, allied forces also swept into Tikrit from the south in a pincer movement to squeeze out militants, though some suggested many already fled in the face of the advance, code named "At your service, prophet of Allah." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strategic move

- **Taking Tikrit would open a supply line for a future operation to besiege Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city that remains under ISIL control.**
- **U.S. military officials have said a mission to retake Mosul likely will begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops. But the Americans have cautioned the offensive could be delayed.**

In this photo taken in June 2013, an elephant called Chishuru is rewarded by David, left, on the target mat for having completed a successful scent trial, as colleague Sugar sits on top, in Bela-Bela, north of Pretoria, South Africa.

GRAHAM ALEXANDER/ADVENTURES WITH ELEPHANTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helpful animals have a nose for explosives work

Bomb disposal. Animals' sharp senses can keep them and human handlers alive in minefields

Humans have looked to a variety of animals to help detect explosives.

Research in South Africa showing that elephants can identify explosives by smell follows a long tradition of such experiments.

Dogs are commonly used to sniff out explosives, contraband and other illegal items. A group called APOPO had such good results with trained rats that it has deployed them to detect mines in Angola and Mozambique and uses them in Tanzania to screen people for tuberculosis by evaluating sputum samples.

The U.S. military is a major funder of the elephant research. Stephen Lee, head scientist at the U.S. Army Research Office, downplayed any parallel between the research and the exploits of Hannibal, the general of ancient Carthage who crossed the Alps with elephants.

"There's never an intention that we're going to use elephants on the battlefield," Lee said.

The goal, he said, is to learn how an elephant smells and incorporate that knowledge into electronic sensors.

Some animals have turned minefields into "de facto wildlife preserves," mostly avoiding mines in areas where people fear to tread, commentator Michael Moore wrote in January on his blog, Landmines in Africa.

He cited leopards on the border between Iran and Iraq; penguins in the Falkland Islands, where Britain fought Argentina in 1982; and wolves in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria.

"Land mines do not protect habitats, (but) merely demonstrate the importance of guaranteeing safe and secure habitats for all species," Moore wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Police dog cemetery final resting place for dutiful K-9s

It's a place of honour for those who sniffed out crime and brought down crooks. On a bluff beneath tall oak trees and overlooking rolling green hills, police dogs from one California agency are laid to rest.

The cemetery for K-9s from the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office on the Central Coast is a unique option. Among U.S. law-enforcement agencies, it's more common for dogs to be buried or their ashes scattered on the handler's property, in a pet cemetery or at the centre that trained them.

No matter where they end up, dogs killed on the job can usually expect a funeral similar to a slain officer's, said Russ Hess, national executive director of the United States Police Canine Association.

That means a crowded service with eulogies, a colour guard and the playing of taps.

In the California department, K-9 funerals didn't receive full law-enforcement honours until the cemetery opened in March 2013.

"It was something that needed to happen," Cmdr. Aaron Nix said. "The K-9s are deputies."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

K-9 Jake began his service with the sheriff's office in January 2001 and died of cancer in 2010.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Flight attendant sues over nut rage

Korean Air. Heiress will be held responsible for damage to employee's career, reputation and emotional well-being, statement says

A flight attendant who says she was living her dream by working for Korean Air is now suing the airline and its infamous nut-rage executive, claiming the bizarre onboard tantrum ruined her career.

Kim Do Hee, the flight attendant, is seeking compensation through a trial in New York City after she was verbally and physically attacked by Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, according to a statement on Wednesday by two American law firms.

It is the first civil lawsuit connected with the nut-rage case, which infuriated South Koreans and hogged global headlines. Last month, a South Korean court sentenced Cho, 40, to one year in prison for violating aviation security laws, using violence against a flight attendant and other charges. Cho, who is the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, has appealed the ruling from prison.

The summons filed Monday said Cho screamed obscenities at Kim and hit and threatened her.

The summons said she was also pressured to lie to government investigators to cover up the incident and to appear in public with Cho "as part of an orchestrated effort to try and rehabilitate Cho's public image."

Kim is seeking compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the trial.

Kim said Korean Air was her dream job since she was a high-school student, but after false rumours spread on the Internet about her accepting a professorship in exchange for lying to investigators, she could not return to work as a flight attendant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The incident

Cho Hyun-ah, a vice-president overseeing cabin service at the time of the Dec. 5 incident, was enraged that Kim Do Hee, 27, served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish.

- After a heated confrontation with crew in the first-class cabin, Cho ordered head flight attendant Park Chang-jin off the plane, forcing it to return to a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Ban on selfie sticks grows at tourist sites

The Chateau de Versailles, outside Paris, and the National Gallery in London have joined the growing list of global tourist attractions that have banned "selfie sticks." The devices are used by visitors such as American tourists Chris Baker and Jennifer Hinson, pictured here in front of the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, to improve snapshots, but critics say the practice is obnoxious and potentially dangerous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Rental cars

Two firms accused of false advertising

The Competition Bureau has accused Avis and Budget of false or misleading advertising, alleging their prices are not attainable due to additional fees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 78.36¢ (-0.5¢)

TSX 14,739.20 (+ 97.44)

OIL $48.17 US (- 12¢)

GOLD $1,150.60 US (- $9.50)

Natural gas: $2.824 US (+ 9.2¢)
Dow Jones: 17,635.39 (- 27.55)

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CRTC fines U.S. firm for flouting do-not-call rules

The U.S.-based company responsible for those pesky calls proclaiming that you've won a cruise has been fined $200,000 for breaking telemarketing rules.

In addition to paying the penalty, Florida-based Consolidated Travel Holdings Group Inc. has agreed to stop making unsolicited telemarketing calls telling Canadians they had won a free cruise to the Bahamas in exchange for answering a survey.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission launched its investigation after hearing complaints from Canadians.

The federal regulator worked with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to investigate the complaints.

The CRTC said Caribbean Cruise Line, which is owned by Consolidated Travel Holdings Group Inc., used an automatic dialing-announcing device to offer cruises to Canadians, including many who have their phone number registered on the national do-not-call list.

"We are pleased to report that Caribbean Cruise Line co-operated with our investigation and has now voluntarily ceased making unsolicited telemarketing calls to Canadian consumers," Manon Bombardier, the CRTC's chief compliance and enforcement officer, said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Do not call list

The national do-not-call list was launched in 2008 and has more than 12.7 million numbers registered.

Canada's farmers at risk: Report

A board member for the National Farmers Union (NFU) says that without laws that support decent farm livelihoods, Canada could lose its next generation of farmers.

Matt Gehl, board member for Saskatchewan, says the country could end up with something like "the serfdom many of our ancestors tried to escape."

On Tuesday, the NFU released an update to its 2010 report on corporate farmland buy-up, farm debt and input financing.

The new report, called Losing Our Grip — 2015 Update, looks at increasing corporate control of farmland and the acceleration of farm debt, now approaching $80 billion.

"Without better farm policy and laws with real teeth, absentee landlords seeking to make the highest possible return for their shareholders will be calling the shots," says NFU president Jan Slomp.

"The work of farming will be done by low-paid seasonal employees or farmers forced to lease land, making it difficult for them to make long-term investments to care for the land."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VOICES

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS UNITE!

Research projects led by those outside academia aren't supported, published or taken seriously, but that should change

STEPHANIE ORFORD
readers@metronews.ca

Tourists take pictures of a humpback whale. Amateur whale watchers can report sightings as part of the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network, but the vast majority of citizen scientists today just do the grunt work. RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

You don't need a PhD to have a great idea, so why do you need a PhD to publish it?

Many of us have ideas that, given research and a platform to share it, could change the way we live. More people outside academia are getting their hands dirty with scientific research.

A few weeks ago, the first-ever Citizen Science Meeting was held at Cornell University. But right now, research projects led by citizen scientists aren't supported, published or taken seriously.

Scientific research needs to go public.

A citizen scientist is anyone in the public who participates in scientific study. You could be one. Numerous projects around the world already see academic scientists tap citizen scientists to collect their data — like crowdfunding, but for information.

Amateur whale watchers report sightings as part of the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network. The University of Calgary-based Aurorasaurus project tracks the aurora through Twitter.

But the vast majority of citizen scientists today just do the grunt work. They don't contribute ideas. Academic institutions and publications still control much of what research is pursued, funded and recognized. Only a select few can currently participate in scientific discovery and be recognized for it.

Many of the world's greatest inventions and discoveries were made outside the walls of academia.

Working out of his shop, a Dutch eyeglasses maker named Hans Lippershey invented the technology behind the telescope, which Galileo used to discover craters on the moon and confirm that the Earth orbits the sun. German goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable-type printing press, which put books in the hands of regular Europeans, not just the aristocracy and the church.

Today, however, peer-reviewed academic journals are the gatekeepers of what science is accepted, talked about and built upon, and right now, for the most part, only researchers from academic institutions are able to publish there.

There just aren't supports in Canada that allow citizen scientists conducting their own experiments or studies to get peer reviewed and to publish their findings, says David Lawrie, program director of Canada's Citizen Scientists, a group of researchers formed out of Toronto in 2003 who collect data about the health of the Rouge River watershed.

Plenty of tools are out there for citizen scientists. Science crowdfunding sites like petridish.org and experiment.com help generate funds, and there are a couple citizen science journals, but the citizen science sea change won't happen until ordinary people can get better recognition for their research.

"For citizen scientists, it takes a lot of time and effort to publish in a journal for essentially almost no reward," says Lawrie.

We also need more incentives to encourage people from more diverse backgrounds to get involved in researching and shaping what we know about the world. They need things like grants, awards, prizes, the honour of being published.

Lawrie would like to see more monetary support for citizen scientists and "a very effective platform to help disseminate the information to the broader public."

Encouraging citizen research would generate more discoveries, and they would happen faster. More diverse people would be able to pursue more diverse topics that are currently underrepresented in academia.

Thanks to data collection by citizen scientists, the eBird network has millions of sightings that have helped focus conservation efforts. Think of how much more we could accomplish with a world full of scientists.

One criticism of citizen research is that reliability and validity of the research can't be controlled as it is in academia.

So let's find ways of fixing that: peer-review panels to vet the quality of citizen research; ethics boards that make sure their projects are above board; a government granting body that endorses and supports promising projects; a central resource where citizen scientists can find out how to conduct research with rigour so they can produce meaningful results.

Cheap, easily accessible technologies are making it easy to collect, analyze and communicate information.

Let's use them to unleash the public brain.

Stephanie Orford is a writer based in Vancouver.

Why being strapped to our tech may actually set us free

MELISSA DUNNE
readers@metronews.ca

I have a confession to make: I want an Apple Watch — badly.

Ever since Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook finally officially revealed the prices and release date of the trio of smart watches Monday, there has been a stream of haters calling the latest offering from the Cupertino, Calif., company stupid, gauche and ridiculously overpriced.

A Gawker writer actually called on readers to take a pledge to not sleep with anyone who dons the gadget. A certain Metro web editor seemed horrified to hear I wanted one. As Taylor Swift sings: Haters gonna hate, hate, hate.

Sure, I'll admit: no one needs an Apple Watch — but then, no one needs a smartphone either, and most of us have one.

While I personally like the design of the watches, some people think they're clunky and weird, and I concede it may be difficult to not look like a lemming or a fashion victim wearing one.

And, uh, yes, the watches are overpriced. The Apple Watch Edition (18-karat gold) will start at a heart-stopping $13,000, the Apple Watch starts at $699 and the Apple Watch Sport is the cheapest option, starting at $449 in Canada.

Yet, despite all that, I still desperately want one. As a runner, I love the idea of having GPS, a heart-rate sensor and an accelerometer — as well as access to Wi-Fi. I'm well aware that the numbers these devices spit out are far from perfect, but it's still nice to be able to get an idea of how hard I'm working when I'm working out.

And as a woman I love that I can now free myself of the tyranny of carrying around so much stuff everywhere I go.

I mean, the watch tells you the time without having to pull out your phone and it's strapped to your wrist so it's harder to lose.

And while you still need your phone nearby, you can pay for things with the watch and check your Twitter feed on it. You can even use it to call a cab. What can't it do? Don't answer that; it's a rhetorical question.

I seem to be swimming against the stream on this one, but I think now is the time for an Apple Watch. Well, not now, now. I'll wait for the kinks to be worked out and the prices to come down (fingers crossed).

Then I'll sport my watch with pride.

Melissa Dunne is a freelance writer based in Toronto.

metro

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Shad's here to give you all he can

Juno award-winning rapper Shad faces the shadow of Jian Ghomeshi when he takes over hosting duties of Q on April 20. Ghomeshi, who helped make Q popular among younger listeners, was fired from the CBC four months ago. So, how will Shad match up against the former host?

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro News in Toronto

Ego

Shad: Friends describe him as confident, but also modest and humble, almost to a fault. "He's never struck me as a person that's seeking or needing the validation of others," said Seattle hip-hop radio host and friend, Jonathan Moore. In a CBC news story on the announcement, Shad downplayed his own prominence, calling his new role "an honour" and praising the producers as a "brilliant, passionate team."

Ghomeshi: In the wake of Ghomeshi's firing and allegations of sexual assault, former staffers have come out to charge Ghomeshi with having an outsized ego. Former staff have described Ghomeshi as an oppressive and perfectionist boss, whose will was the law.

Radio experience

Shad: He's had a lot of time behind the microphone, but in terms of hosting a radio show, Shad's main efforts were as a guest host for Q in January for a week.

Ghomeshi: He had a number of smaller broadcasting gigs before launching Q in 2007, including on CBC TV as the host of the pop culture program Play, and later as the host of a series of music shows on CBC Radio One, including a stint on Sounds Like Canada.

Accolades

Shad: The musician has been racking up praise for his music for the past 10 years. He won the 2011 Juno award for Rap Recording of the Year, beating out Drake, and his albums have been nominated for other Junos, MuchMusic Video Awards and the Polaris Prize.

Ghomeshi: As a musician, Ghomeshi's career was less decorated. But as host of Q, he won the Gold Award for best talk-show host at the New York Festivals International Radio Awards in 2012. He was also praised around the world for taking on Billy Bob Thornton in a prickly 2009 interview.

Musical

Shad: A veteran of the hip-hop world, Shad has released four albums, two mixtapes and four EPs. The Old Prince is considered his breakout album, he won the Juno for TSOL, and his most recent release came last year, with Flying Colours. He makes "culturally curious hip hop (that's) eclectic, witty, thoughtful, funny," said music writer and Polaris Prize juror Michael Barclay.

Ghomeshi: As the singer and drummer in the satirical folk-pop band Moxy Früvous, Ghomeshi recorded eight albums. The band released platinum-selling records, and made Ghomeshi a name in Canadian music, but "by the time he started working at the CBC, his music career was kind of a joke," said Barclay.

X Factor

Shad: As yet unproven as a host, Shad has ample proof of his charisma on stage. The MC is confident and intelligent, but not arrogant, Moore said. "He's curious and interesting. He will bring energy to the show," Barclay said.

Ghomeshi: There's no doubt that Q's popularity became entwined with Ghomeshi's own star power. Known as a gracious radio host, he also didn't cower to well-known interview subjects — he once sarcastically corrected Julian Assange for calling him by the show's name. A charismatic man in person, Ghomeshi's confidence shone on air, and the way he connected with guests and drew out their stories undoubtedly helped forge Q's reputation as a cultural powerhouse and a must-do interview.

New show serves up a royal helping of scandal

The Royals. Viewers treated to foibles of fictional regal family

There's little to take seriously in the campy new drama The Royals — a show from E network about the scandalous lives of a fictional royal family.

But amidst all the mayhem, there is at least a modicum of attention paid to portraying proper regal behaviour, which co-star Alexandra Park credits to her "very English" co-star, Elizabeth Hurley.

The Australian actress, who plays rebellious princess Eleanor to Hurley's imperious Queen Helena, says the Austin Powers star acted as a bit of an informal etiquette expert on set, pointing out little-known dos and don'ts as filming went on. "She's like, 'No, we would never have that colour flowers for this event. And you can't wear that,'" Park recalled in a recent phone interview from Los Angeles. "She just knows everything. It's crazy."

Park said Hurley and co-star Joan Collins lend a dash of Hollywood majesty to the over-the-top series, which revels in the ignoble exploits of a royal brood sent reeling when the heir apparent dies suddenly.

Rather than allude too much to the lives of actual royals, Moseley said the series makes a point of charting its own outlandish course. "You have a girl serving food in a French maid outfit — you know what I mean? Which obviously wouldn't happen in the royal palace."

The Royals' debuts Sunday on E network.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Royals debuts Sunday on E network. CONTRIBUTED

Verdict blurs lines on paying homage to musical influences

Copyright. Williams and Thicke's $7.4M court loss could cause chilling effect on creation of music

Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke have been ordered to pay nearly $7.4 million to the late Marvin Gaye's three children for a copyright infringement. GETTY IMAGES

A jury's verdict that Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke copied Marvin Gaye's music to create their hit song Blurred Lines won't just be felt by the singers' pocketbooks — it has the potential to change how musicians work and could open the door to new copyright claims.

An eight-person jury determined Tuesday that Williams and Thicke copied elements of Gaye's 1977 hit Got to Give It Up and ordered the pair to pay nearly $7.4 million to the late singer's three children.

The music industry may feel new constraints in the coming years as artists — and lawyers — sort through the verdict and its implications.

Howard King, lead attorney for Thicke and Williams, told jurors in closing arguments that a verdict for the Gaye family would have a chilling effect on musicians' trying to evoke an era or create an homage to the sound of earlier musicians. Williams contended during the trial that he was only trying to mimic the "feel" of Gaye's late 1970s music, but insisted he did not use elements of his idol's work. "Today's successful verdict, with the odds more than stacked against the Marvin Gaye estate, could redefine what copyright infringement means for recording artists," said Glen Rothstein, an intellectual property attorney with the firm Greenberg Glusker.

"The Gaye verdict is precedential in that whereas prior to today, it was generally understood that paying homage to musical influences was an acceptable, and indeed commonplace way of conducting business and even showing respect for one's musical idols, after today, doubt has been cast on where the line will be drawn for copyright infringement purposes," Rothstein said.

The Gaye family will seek an injunction against Blurred Lines, which will give them leverage to negotiate for royalties and other concessions such as songwriting credits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Well, that sounds familiar

AVRIL VS. THE RUBINOOS

Although she insisted she had never heard the '70s tune I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend by the Rubinoos, Avril Lavigne agreed to an out-of-court settlement involving her hit song Girlfriend.

EX-BEATLE VS. THE CHIFFONS

Former Beatle George Harrison's 1970 solo song My Sweet Lord had a melody heavy with echoes of He's So Fine, the 1962 hit from The Chiffons. A judge said Harrison was guilty only of "subconscious plagiarism." Harrison would eventually pay out $587,000.

TOM PETTY VS. SAM SMITH

Tom Petty's publishers said Sam Smith's Stay With Me's melody bore a striking resemblance to Petty's I Won't Back Down. Smith and his representatives agreed, and granted co-writing credit to Petty.

ALL PORTRAITS GETTY IMAGES; TOP RIGHT PHOTOS ARE ALBUM COVERS

Tribeca Film Festival

John Cleese GETTY IMAGES

Monty Python celebrates 40 years of the Holy Grail

The surviving members of the British comedy troupe Monty Python will be making a special appearance at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York next month to help mark the 40th anniversary of their cult classic film Monty Python and the Holy Grail. John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin will reunite at the Beacon Theatre April 24 for a special screening of the 1975 film.

The feature-length documentary Monty Python: The Meaning of Live will also get its world premiere at the TFF, exploring the comedic genius behind members of the British comedy group. Tickets will go on sale March 23. AFP

Fashion. Jeanne Beker premieres new show on The Shopping Channel

Jeanne Beker
THE CANADIAN PRESS

After 27 years spent primarily profiling designers as host of Fashion Television, Jeanne Beker is opting for a fresh take on fashion aimed at helping viewers maximize their style potential.

The fashion and media maven is returning to the airwaves with Style Matters with Jeanne Beker, which has its two-hour premiere Thursday at 8 p.m. ET on the Shopping Channel. Full episodes will be available online at tsc.ca the following day.

Three years since the cancellation of the long-running FT, Beker said she has felt fortunate to continue making regular TV appearances — albeit in "very conventional ways."

"I was being used for the regular red carpet commentary or to give my opinion about this or that — which is all great," the affable Beker said in an interview.

"But I felt that it was high time to do something new and exciting again."

With Style Matters, Beker draws on part of the formula that made FT a trail-blazing success, with plans to shoot segments in the field featuring interviews with designers or showroom tours.

She will anchor the show live from the studio, with one-hour and two-hour editions hoping to guide viewers toward translating notable styles featured onscreen into their own wardrobes. The debut episode will include a visit to the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York which recently opened a special exhibition on Yves Saint Laurent and Halston, two of the most influential designers of the 1970s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Mindy Kaling can't do one-night stands

Mindy Kaling ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

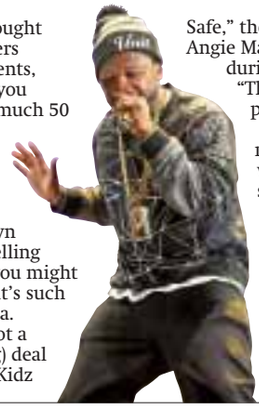
Art, it seems, doesn't imitate life when it comes to Mindy Kaling, who is finding that the wild dating life of her The Mindy Project alter ego is screwing up what men expect from her in her own life.

"When I go on dates there's this expectation that I'm going to have, like, 11 martinis and like, pass out and spend the night really soon. And I think people get a little disappointed because my true self is like, I could never do that, like have a one-night stand," the single actress and writer tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview.

"Because I have my medications that I have to take at night. I have to be at my house and do my flossing. I have all that stuff."

Hey, maybe some guys are into flossing.

50 cent's son pulls in huge salary for a two-year-old



I never thought that toddlers needed agents, but when you hear how much 50 Cent's two-year-old son, Sire Jackson, pulled down for a modelling contract, you might not think it's such a crazy idea.

"He's got a (modelling) deal now with Kidz Safe," the rapper revealed to Angie Martinez at Power 105 during an interview.

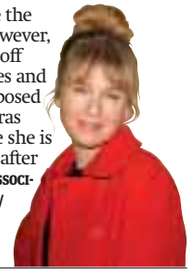
"They paid him a big payment, too."

And by big, he means a contract worth $700,000. No, seriously. That's a lot of binkies.

"He's cute, you gotta pay for it," Fiddy explained. He also assured listeners that the money is going into a trust until Jackson is 18 years old.

Renée steps out in Paris

A chic Renée Zellweger — who attracted attention last fall for a noticeably changed visage — at first hid her face from cameras with Audrey Hepburn-style bangs and large shades Wednesday as she hit Prada's Miu Miu show on the last day of the ready-to-wear collections in Paris.



Inside the show, however, she took off the shades and proudly posed for cameras — maybe she is "happy," after all. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/METRO

Tony says 'I do' to Gaga wedding gig

Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga

Singing at Lady Gaga's wedding would likely be a pretty nerve-racking prospect for even the most seasoned of young musicians, so it makes sense that the chameleon-like singer would go for someone who can handle the pressure.

Enter pal Tony Bennett, who is reportedly on tap to croon at Gaga's upcoming nuptials. "They invited me to do it, and of course I will," he tells Page Six.

Now, you can accuse me of being cynical or unromantic, that's fine, but I can't help noticing that Gaga and Bennett, who released their Cheek to Cheek duets album last fall, are embarking on a tour next month. What a coincidence!

Shooting at Lil Wayne's a hoax

Lil Wayne

An apparent hoax summoned a strong police response Wednesday to the home of rapper Lil Wayne after an unknown caller reported a shooting.

The caller claimed four people had been shot at the waterfront home on an exclusive Miami Beach island.

The responding officers, including a heavily armed SWAT team, found no evidence of a shooting, no victims and no gunman. "We can say for sure it was a hoax," Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said. "It's not a laughing matter."

Rodriguez also said the owner of the home — Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter — was not there at the time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Flirting with danger at Paris Fashion Week

Stella McCartney's gentle beauty

Hitting the on-trend spot, Stella McCartney sensually explored styles of undressing for fall-winter 2015, with a hint of the corset.

Gone were many of the sporty shapes that are now associated with her esthetic — and in their place were silhouettes, cinched chicly with a belt at the waist or bustier-shaped. Elsewhere, there were voluminous "comfort" shapes on beautiful loose knit sweater-dresses in earth tones, which would fall nonchalantly off one arm — as if in a state of undress.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hermès designer shows powerful debut

For her debut collection at power house Hermès, new designer Nadège Vanhee-Cybulski pared down the house esthetic, to subtle, yet powerful, results. Narrowing down the palette to navy, cobalt blue, ivory, carmine red and flashes of sunshine yellow, the 36-year-old French designer used simple minimalist shapes that drew from Oriental styles to bold effect.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint Laurent's sex-infused, '80s grit and glam

Fashion's wild child Hedi Slimane upped the sexiness in his latest offering for Saint Laurent, with thick eye makeup, whitened faces, torn tights and a flirtation with the styles of the '80s New Romantics.

The stomping models were still here in this latest chapter of the controversial French-Tunisian's evolution at the house, as were the glittering glam rock fleeces, black boots, black leather minis, and the figure-hugging leopard print cocktail dresses.

It felt like the new Saint Laurent girl had grown up a little bit, moved into the early '80s and discovered sex. A tight black leather zip-up minidress was undone nearly to the crotch, while one truncated bridal dress was twinned with a tuxedo and looked like the heady bride had ditched her man at the altar and gone to the disco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louis Vuitton's leather and lace

Nicolas Ghesquière, artistic director, manages to mix a certain simplicity with technical expertise. The lace looks like collages on dresses and tops, with just a chain for a belt. Shoulders are highlighted, exaggerated and gathered. Skirts are worn short with pockets, paired with sublime leather jackets, embroidered sheepskin or even zipped blouses. The gold and silver shine is the focus, sparkly but with a simplicity at the same time.

GETYY IMAGES

Kenzo embraces layers and lines

This season's mantra is: Pile it all on. We've seen it notably at Lanvin, Dries Van Noten — and now at Kenzo's draped, voluminous and colourful fashion spectacle.

The collection continued this energy in its vivid splashes of kinetic graphic lines and flashes of contrasting, coloured prints.

But fall-winter was all about the layering.

Geometric lines featured on layered A-line column dresses, topped off with funky asymmetrical poncho-hoods.

Kenzo is all about the cultural fusion. The dark looks featured a nice play of camouflage print on a poncho and assorted jungle pants: If you looked closely you realized the pattern was, in fact, of very un-militaristic flowers.

It was tongue in cheek, and is bound to be a hit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETYY IMAGES

Tips for men looking to dress up their formal look

David C. Wigley wants to help men diversify their approach to formal wear by considering a fresh take on black tie.

"They kind of get stuck in this pigeonhole that you have to always wear a black tux if you're dressing up," said the Toronto-based designer, whose garments are produced in the city.

"I don't really want to take men too far out of their comfort zone, so you'd like to stick to silhouettes that they know — staying with the traditional tailored tux pant and fitted blazer — but using fabrics that you wouldn't typically expect like sequins and bright coloured velvet," said Wigley, who also helms womenswear label Clan Gordon and unisex line Ease.

Toronto designer David C. Wigley. ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

Here are Wigley's suggestions for men seeking to break the formal wear mould — and look good doing it:

Select a lone statement piece. "If it is a sequined blazer, then that's what the attention is on," said Wigley.

Find a flattering fit. "If it's cut in the proper way, it should still flatter your body."

Pick a print. "It's sort of the most versatile thing to work in, especially when you're working with a base of neutrals." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Get your dose of deep-fried goodness

Snack. Wild Ramp and Crab-Stuffed Hushpuppies with Green Goddess Dressing are a Southern U.S. fave

Hushpuppies

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Bring a saucepan of salted water to a boil. Make an ice bath in a bowl with equal parts ice and water. Put the ramps in a strainer and submerge them in the boiling water for 45 seconds. Remove and submerge them in the ice bath until completely cold. Drain and shake off the water, then drain and dry on paper towels.

3. Chop the ramps into small pieces.

4. Put the self-rising flour, cornmeal, 1 cup all-purpose flour, salt, sugar, white pepper, baking soda, and baking powder in a large bowl and whisk to mix well. Add the onion and half of the chopped ramps and mix well. Lightly beat the eggs in a medium bowl, then whisk in the milk, buttermilk, and lard. Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients.

5. Pour the canola oil into a deep fryer or a large pot and heat it to 350 F.

6. While the oil is heating, blend the remaining ramps in a blender on high, adding just enough water to keep them moving, until very smooth, about 4 minutes. Add the purée to the batter. (Because the size and moisture content of the ramps vary, you may need to add all-purpose flour to batter after frying a test hushpuppy.)

Ingredients

Hushpuppies
- 1/2 lb ramps, cleaned and hairy root ends removed
- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 to 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp kosher salt
- 1 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp white pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons each baking soda, and baking powder
- 1/4 cup small sweet onion, diced
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp buttermilk
- 1/4 cup lard, melted
- 8 cups canola oil
- 1 1/2 cups fresh crabmeat, picked over for shells, cartilage
- Green Goddess Dressing

Green Goddess Dressing
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup chopped scallions (white and green parts)
- 1 cup chopped basil
- 3/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp chopped garlic
- 2 oil-packed anchovies
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp ground white pepper
- 1 cup sour cream

7. When the oil is hot, dip a 1-oz scoop into the hot oil to coat it, then fill the scoop with batter and tap it a time or two to release any air pockets. Hold the scoop 1 inch above the hot oil and carefully drop the batter into the oil. If the batter seems too thin, add more all-purpose flour, whisking until smooth. The desired result is a hushpuppy that is golden brown and crispy on the outside and light as a feather inside. When the batter is correct, carefully fold in the crab.

8. Scoop the batter into the hot oil, without crowding the hushpuppies, and fry, without touching them, for about 1 minute. Then carefully tap the hushpuppies to loosen them if they have stuck to the fryer basket or the bottom of the fryer or pot and fry until golden brown, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer the hushpuppies to one of the prepared baking sheets. Repeat until you've used all the batter. Be sure that the oil returns to 350 F before you put in the next batch.

Cookbook of the Week

Southern comfort

Sean Brock is out to preserve the heritage foods of the American south with his aptly titled book, Heritage.

The offerings include a blend of comfort food and high-end restaurant food (for when you have more time to cook). The cookbook also includes headnotes that explain Brock's background and give context to his food, and essays in which he shares his admiration for the purveyors and ingredients he cherishes.

Specific recipes include Pickled Shrimp, Crispy Pig Ear Lettuce Wraps, Slow-Cooked Pork Shoulder with Tomato Gravy and Sweet Potato Doughnuts.

METRO

This recipe makes about 32 hushpuppies. PETER FRANK EDWARDS

9. Bake the hushpuppies for about 4 minutes to ensure that they are cooked through. Drain on paper towels and serve hot, alongside the dressing for dipping.

Green Goddess Dressing

1. Combine the mayonnaise, scallions, basil, lemon juice, garlic, anchovies, salt, and white pepper in a blender and blend until smooth. Add the sour cream and process just until blended. The dressing will keep in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. RECIPES WERE BOTH EXCERPTED FROM HERITAGE BY SEAN BROCK (ARTISAN BOOKS). COPYRIGHT © 2014.

Side dish. Pickled cabbage

1. Wash and dry the cabbage. Pull off the outer leaves. Stack them a few at a time, roll them into cylinders, and cut them into large ribbons. Core the heads and cut them into quarters, then thinly slice the cabbage.

2. Toss the cabbage and the salt in a large nonreactive container and mix well to combine. Weigh the cabbage down with a plate to keep it submerged in the liquid that will be released.

3. Cover the container with a square of cheesecloth and tie it snugly. Let stand in a cool place for 1 week to cure, then refrigerate. Tightly covered, the cabbage will keep for up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator.

Ingredients

- 3 large heads green cabbage, with large outer leaves
- 1 cup plus 3 tbsp kosher salt

This recipe makes four quarts. PETER FRANK EDWARDS

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metro

This season's living room furniture comes in generous and inviting shapes and wears subtle shades of pink, from peach to pale rosewood. These items are ideal for creating a cosy space to curl up in

AFP

Pick a perfect pink piece

Made of wool, cotton and foam, the Nubilo sofa by Constance Guiset for Petite Friture resembles something between a cloud and a pastry. Macaron-shaped cushions in various sizes and colors are stacked along the sofa for "maximum comfort," according to the designer (approximately $3,280-$4,070). PETITE FRITURE

All about protection and comfort, the Log and Doolly collection by Désio consists of several folding screens made with Bultex foam, which can be used to create private spaces that are isolated from exterior noise. Matching two-tone sofas and chairs complete the cosy ambiance (from approximately $1,610). DÉSIO

For Ligne Roset, French designer Inga Sempé designed Beau Fixe, a two-person sofa that calls to mind a retro airplane seat, only much softer. Sempé was inspired by her memory of a beach chair. To resurrect this item as a comfortable and elegant sofa, she combined a metal structure with a soft comforter (Price available on request). LIGNE ROSET

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These little lights, let 'em shine

Lighting can make or break the look and mood of your home, from uninviting over-lit rooms to paintings that disappear because there's no light. Every room needs three sources of lighting: accent, task and ambient. Here are the best forms of these lights and how to use them in a room

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Accent lighting

Accent lighting creates a moody environment and helps to brighten dark corners and highlight art. It's great as a night light to welcome you when you come home late or when you don't want your house completely dark at night. Highlighting a plant, sculpture or painting an easy way to add a spark of light to a room without totally illuminating it.

Create drama: Shine a light through your houseplants to create an exotic atmosphere. Canarm Theo Adjustable Lamp, $30, HomeDepot.ca

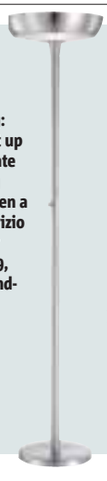
Wall hung: Highlight a picture or simply wash a wall with light. Reynolds Library Bookcase Sconce, $199, PotteryBarn.com

Task lighting

Task lighting is directed light to help you with a task such as reading, preparing food or working on hobbies. A swing-arm reading lamp or under-cupboard kitchen lights are prime examples of task lighting. This type of lighting is best planned after you move into your home and know where you need specific lighting.

Directed wall hung: Read in bed without getting light in your eyes. Morgan Ivory Sconce, $179, CrateAndBarrel.com

Under counters: Brighten your countertops in the kitchen with under-counter lighting. Westek Plug-In Cabinet LED Puck Light Kit, $16 per light, Lowes.ca



Uplighting: Shine light up to illuminate the ceiling and brighten a room. Fabrizio Steel Floor Lamp, $269, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

Flush-mount ceiling fixture: Illuminate a kitchen or bathroom with overall light. Sienna Flush Mount, $525, Elte.com

Ambient light

Ambient lighting is an overall bright source used in spaces like workshops or laundry rooms. Every room should have them as they are useful for brightening the entire room for cleaning chores or parties. This type of lighting usually comes in the form of an overhead flush-mount light fixture or a torchiere-style floor lamp that directs light onto the ceiling, reflecting it back into the room.

Wednesday in sports

1 Boxing. No need to fight for viewership

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao made their first joint appearance to promote their highly anticipated May 2 bout. Mayweather will get 60 per cent of the purse from the May 2, a haul that could exceed $120 million.

2 NFL. Colts go big at WR

Star receiver Andre Johnson, a two-time All-Pro and seven-time Pro Bowler, joined the Indianapolis Colts two days after being dropped by the Houston Texans.

3 MLB. A-Rod hits 1st homer after PED odyssey

Alex Rodriguez hit his first home run since returning to the Yankees following a drug suspension in New York's 10-6 loss to the Boston Red Sox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

England edges Canada in Cyprus Cup final

Women's soccer. Canucks narrowly lose even though they believe they outplayed their opponents

Canada's Kadeisha Buchanan slides to knock the ball away from England's Claire Rafferty during the Cyprus Cup final on Wednesday in Larnaca, Cyprus. GETTY IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

The Canadian women's soccer team leaves the Cyprus Cup without the championship but with a few lessons learned.

Lianne Sanderson's 68th-minute goal lifted England to a 1-0 win in Wednesday's final, marking the first time the Canadian goal had been breached in four games at the tournament.

Sanderson scored from 15 yards after Jordan Nobbs' through ball.

"I think they probably had three shots on goal the whole game," Canadian coach John Herdman said. "They broke away. We were on the attack in their half and, two passes later, they're behind our two centre backs. They capitalized.

"So it was just disappointing because we'd talked and worked tactically on trying to make sure they didn't release someone on that phase of the game — and it happened. I guess our two young centre backs will learn from it."

The Canadian women also lost some of their structure in the last 10 minutes while they chased a tying goal, Herdman said.

"I think that's a massive learning (experience) for us in the next three months, just to start tidying up some of those tournament processes that we've been putting in place."

Canada almost tied it in stoppage time but England goalie Siobhan Chamberlain stopped Allysha Chapman's shot from 20 yards out.

"She made a cracking save," said Herdman. "But I think throughout the game we were the better team.

"England has beaten us here at the Cyprus Cup twice before when we've been developing towards the World Cup. And I can honestly say look, they were the better team in those games. But tonight Canada was the better team. So I mean as a group, we don't feel beaten although the result reflects that."

Captain Christine Sinclair echoed that view.

"I think we made a lot of progress in this tournament, showed a lot of growth" she said. "I thought we outplayed England in the final. It was a tough one to lose."

Both teams are gearing up for the June 6 start of the Women's World Cup in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyrpus Cup final

England	Canada
1	0

MLB. Jays left with hole in rotation and clubhouse

It's going to be hard to replace injured Marcus Stroman's personality as much as his pitching, the Blue Jays say.

"Obviously, his attitude and his smile he brings every day, (losing) that part of it sucks," Jays veteran starter Mark Buehrle said the day after the right-hander suffered a torn knee ligament during a routine fielding drill, expected to knock him out for the season.

Stroman spoke publicly Wednesday for the first time since the injury.

Stroman said he hopes to push the envelope on the time frame if possible.

On Wednesday

Drew Hutchison continued his success against the Baltimore Orioles, pitching four scoreless innings in the Toronto Blue Jays' 5-2 win over the Orioles on Wednesday in Sarasota, Fla.

"It's pretty set that there's (no comeback this season), but who knows — maybe playoffs, 'pen ... (but) you have to trust the process," he said. "I just have to focus on the rehab and getting better."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Champions League. 10-man PSG stuns Chelsea

Thiago Silva sent 10-man Paris Saint-Germain into the Champions League quarter-finals on away goals after a 2-2 draw (3-3 on aggregate) at Chelsea in extra time of a fiery and ill-disciplined game on Wednesday.

Although PSG had striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic sent off in the 31st minute for a disputable challenge on Oscar, the visitors still provided the greater threat at Stamford Bridge.

Silva's looping header in the 114th minute allowed PSG to avenge last season's loss to Chelsea in the quarter-finals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris Saint-Germain's David Luiz celebrates teammate Thiago Silva's tying goal in extra time against Chelsea on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

4 SPORTS

Jets must pull plug on Pavelec-tricity

VIEW FROM THE 300S
Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson in Sunrise, Fla.

What happened Tuesday night in St. Louis is a perfect microcosm of Ondrej Pavelec's time in Winnipeg.

At times he's brilliant, standing on his head, keeping his team in the game, only to sink the ship by allowing an inexcusable goal at the worst possible time. But of all of the soft goals Pavelec has allowed as a Winnipeg Jet, Tuesday's game winner for the St. Louis Blues might be the most damaging to his future with the club.

It was certainly the most dramatic.

After falling behind 4-1 in the second period, starter Michael Hutchinson was yanked after allowing four goals on seven shots. Enter Pavelec, who made his second relief appearance in a week, replacing the new go-to guy in the Winnipeg net.

The Jets popped two quick goals to start the third period to bring them within one, and then the penalties started piling up. Four consecutive Jet minors including a 90-second five-on-three advantage had the Blues firing all sorts of rubber at the Winnipeg net.

Not only did Pavelec turn away the Blues — often in spectacular fashion — but Blake Wheeler scored a short-handed goal to tie the game at four and complete the improbable comeback.

Then disaster struck.

With little more than a minute left in the game and the Blues reeling, St. Louis defenceman Barrett Jackman shot one in from the boards just inside of centre that somehow — incredibly — eluded Pavelec. The Jets were stunned, as were most of the fans in the Scottrade Center. The Blues held on for a 5-4 win.

Considering the stakes of the game and the unlikely comeback that preceded the goal, it's no exaggeration to suggest it might be the worst goal against in franchise history.

Pavelec has been a lightning rod for criticism during his time minding the net for the Winnipeg Jets.

But while the critics grew louder and his playing time dwindled this season, it still seemed the Czech netminder would be part of the team for the next couple of seasons — if for no other reason than the Jets still owe him $3.9 million a year until 2017. Based on his play the contract is pretty much untradeable, but now other options like a buyout or a new home in the minors will have to be explored.

I do think Paul Maurice will get his team to rebound and put the events of Tuesday night in the rear-view mirror. They have no choice. But there is no question what little confidence Jets players and coaches had in Pavelec is almost gone. How could it not be? They've seen this act before — and all too often.

If the Winnipeg Jets want to take the next step forward in their development into a contender, they will have to pull the plug on Pavelec-tricity.

Winnipeg goalie Ondrej Pavelec may have made his most costly mistake yet as a Jet, and it's unlikely management will give him another chance. TOM GANNAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have to rethink your plans over the next few days as Saturn begins a retrograde phase. Don't give up on them completely though.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Take a look at your financial position and decide what steps need to be taken to improve your long-term security. Your main priority is to cut back on unnecessary expenses.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Know your limits and stay within them. No matter how far or fast you travel it's likely that something will bring you back to earth with a bump.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It seems you've finally realized that you have been wasting a lot of time and energy on something that is not worth the effort. It will fade in importance over the next few days.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Saturn, the great taskmaster of the zodiac, is urging you to be realistic about your aims and modest about your abilities.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The time has come to admit that a partnership is not working out as well as you expected. It's no big deal, and it is certainly not your fault. Some people you can do business with and some you cannot.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today, check once, check twice, then check a third time. Whatever you are planning you must make sure you have covered all the angles because a small detail could trip you up.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get what you deserve to get today, nothing more and nothing less. Now that you know that you won't be inclined to complain if what you get falls short of expectations.

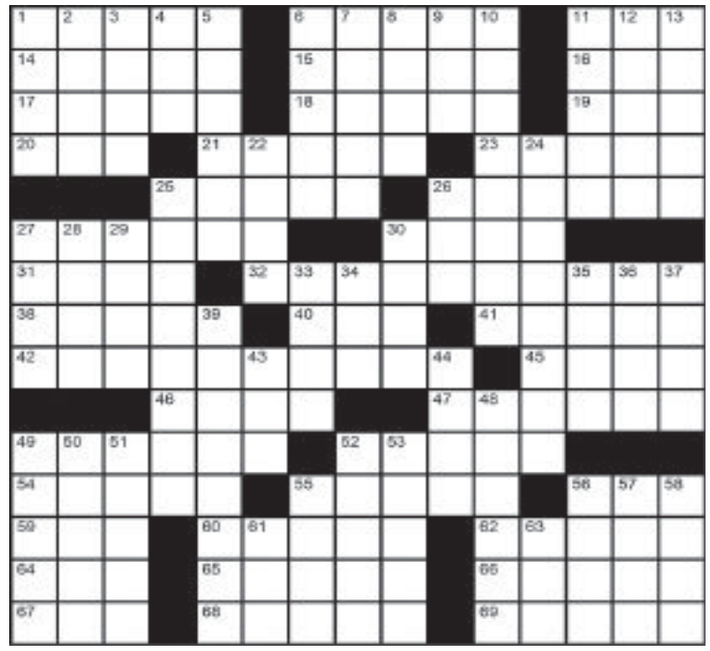
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Saturn in your sign warns life is not as straightforward as you seem to think. What happens over the next few days will encourage you to plan ahead.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are convinced that the roof is going to fall in on you. So it will come as a nice surprise today when something wonderful happens instead.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have to re-think certain ambitions over the next few days. New information will come to light that will make you realize there is more work involved than you imagined.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't get hung-up on long-term career plans. Yes, you can and must keep moving in your favoured direction but there is no need to be so rigid about it.

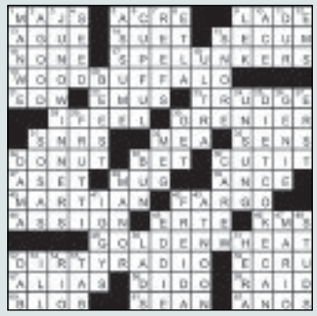
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. "The Brothers __" (2005)
6. One-__ (Biased)
11. Speed __.
14. Mythological weeper
15. Restaurants: "Can I see _ __ please?"
16. "Gimme __ '_'!" (O-T-T-A-W-A cheer-starter)
17. "I now pronounce you..." site
18. Carnivore's dish, __ __ lamb
19. Drivel
20. Ms. Leoni
21. Ms. Kudrow's
23. Senses
25. Late night host Mr. O'Brien
26. Truly
27. Tourist attractions
30. Victoria-born artist Emily
31. In this spot
32. Nissan vehicle
38. Susan's "All My Children" role
40. Old Rome's deuce-ace
41. Harry __ (Sarnia, Ontario born hockey analyst)
42. Canadian fashion brand founded in 2002: 2 wds.
45. Canadian chanteuse Celine
46. Ireland
47. Iago's wife in Shakespearean tragedy Othello
49. Flying flickerers
52. Humdinger
54. Llama catcher
55. A famous Canadian Joe
56. "__ and Away" (1992)
59. Fall Boy link (Rock band)
60. Caffeine nuts
62. Royal adornment
64. Beatles: "_._. _ Love You"
65. Fennel-like flavour
66. Open the compressed computer file
67. 'Racket' suffix
68. Lion mane parts
69. Positioned oneself to pray

Down
1. Irritating fly
2. Vex
3. Whit
4. Commerce grad's letters
5. Bordeaux grape/wine
6. Spicy sauce
7. "_ __ business!"
8. Li'l grad-earned thingies
9. Roxy Music's Brian
10. Toronto subway station
11. Suit jacket flap
12. Counting everything: 2 wds.
13. One of Beatrix Potter's rabbits
22. Police dept. rank
24. Canadian singer The Weeknd's current hit tune off the 'Fifty Shades of Grey' soundtrack album: 2 wds.
25. Classic game
26. UK military fliers
27. FOX News anchor Mr. Smith, to pals
28. Yesterday: Italian
29. Smile
30. __ seeds (Health food store purchase)
33. $uffix to 'Billion'
34. __-for-tat
35. __ Eireann (Lower House of the Irish legislature)
36. H.G. Wells people
37. Blue Rodeo song
39. Northwestern Ontario town, the 'Canoeing Capital of Canada'
43. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis
44. At hand
48. Whale skin/blubber treat in the Arctic
49. Gradient
50. PVR remote button
51. Active
52. Uninterested
53. Lets up
55. Cut short
56. Unnerve
57. Seed's jacket
58. Transfixed
61. Judi Dench/Cate Blanchett movie, "Notes __ _ Scandal" (2006)
63. Stopover accommodation

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	9	1	2	3	5	6	7
2	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	8
5	6	1	7	8	4	3	2	9
7	5	4	9	1	2	6	8	3
3	2	6	8	4	5	7	9	1
9	1	8	3	6	7	2	5	4
8	4	5	2	7	1	9	3	6
6	9	3	4	5	8	1	7	2
1	7	2	6	3	9	8	4	5

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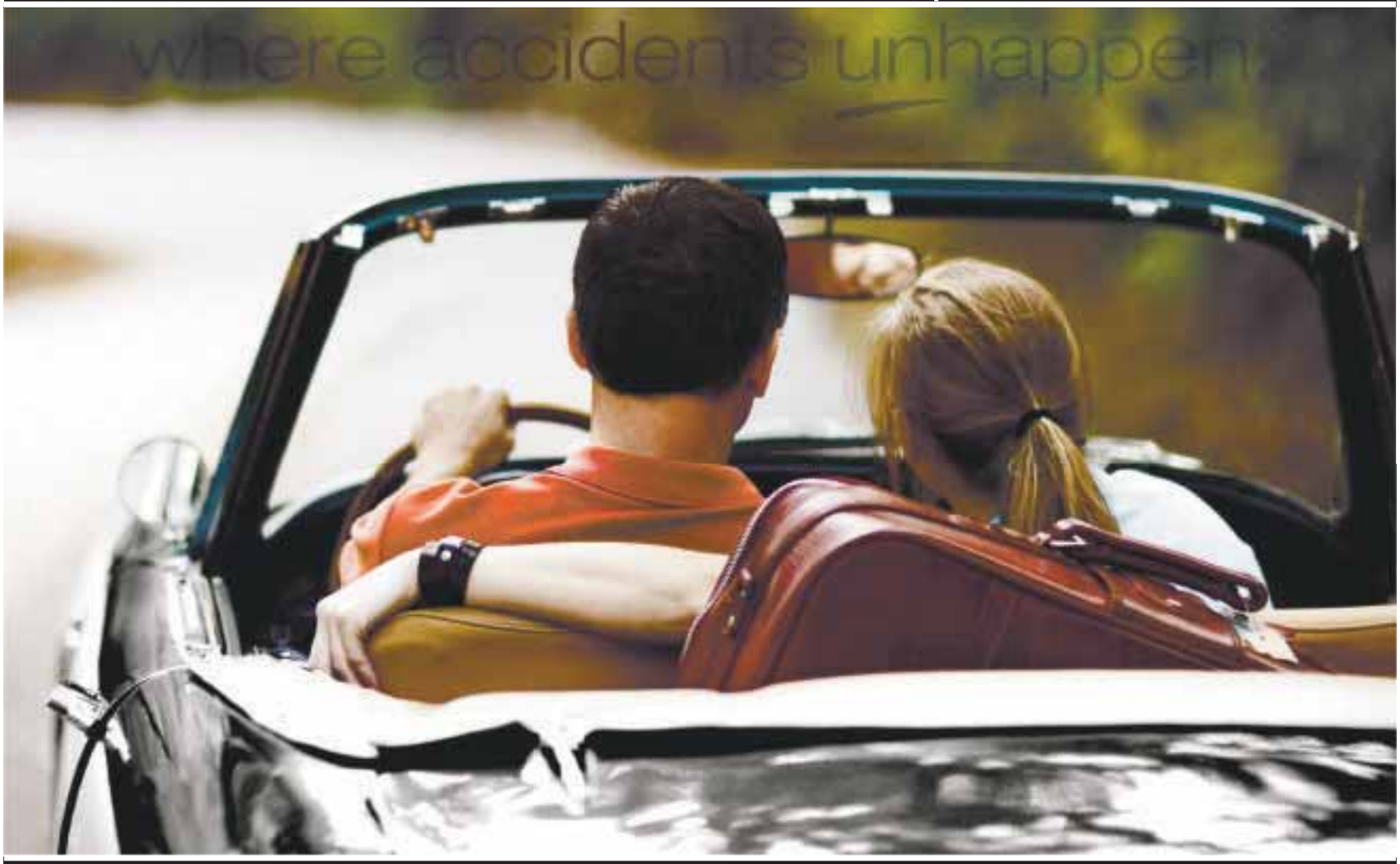

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